

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed September 7, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-3, 9-12, 14-21, 31-32, 38-40 and 42 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-7 and 15-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,506 issued to Hipp, et al. ("Hipp"). The Office Action also rejects Claims 4-8, 13, 22-30, 33-37 and 41 because they are dependent upon the above referenced independent claims for double patenting.

Enclosed with this Response is a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 1-3, 9-12, 14-21, 31-32, 38-40 and 42. Reconsideration and a withdrawal of the double patenting rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusions

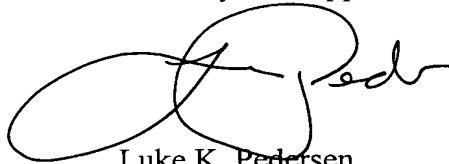
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending Claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicant stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicant has hereby enclosed a check in the amount of \$110.00 to satisfy the Disclaimer Fee. Applicant believes no other fee is due at this time. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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